(e) Electrification of various sections is taken up in priority of traffic density of the route. Veraval-Somnath to Ahmedabad & from Porbandar to Ahmedabad will be taken up for electrification as and when it becomes due.

Railway zones

540. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the existing Railway zones functioning in the country, as on date;

(b) whether there has been persistent demand from various quarters for creation of new Railway zones;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reaction of his Ministry thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) There are sixteen Railway zones functioning on Indian Railways which are as under:—

Railway	**Headquarter**
Central Railway	Mumbai
Eastern Railway	Kolkata
Northern Railway	New Delhi
North-Eastern Railway	Gorakhpur
Northeast Frontier Railway	Maligaon, Guwahati
Southern Railway	Chennai
South-Central Railway	Secunderabad
South-Eastern Railway	Kolkata
Western Railway	Mumbai
North-Central Railway	Allahabad
North-Western Railway	Jaipur
East-Central Railway	Hajipur
South-East Central Railway	Bilaspur
South-Western Railway	Hubli
East Coast Railway	Bhubaneswar
West-Central Railway	Jabalpur

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Demands have been received from various quarters/VIPs for setting up of new Zonal Headquarters at following locations:—

	Zone	State
1.	Ahmedabad	Gujarat
2.	Ajmer	Rajasthan
3.	Amritsar	Punjab
4.	Calicut	Kerala
5.	Cannanore	Kerala
6.	Cochin	Kerala
7.	Dhanbad	Jharkhand
8.	Dharwad	Karnataka
9.	Gandhidham	Gujarat
10.	Gandhinagar	Gujarat
11.	Jammu	Jammu & Kashmir
12.	Nagpur	Maharashtra
13.	Thiruvananthapuram	Kerala
14.	Vadodara	Gujarat

(d) New Railway Zones are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload, accessibility, traffic pattern and other administrative/ operational requirements consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The proposals for creation of new Zones, when seen in the light of these considerations, have not been found operationally feasible.

Doubling of Porbander-Ahmedabad rail line

541. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR RUPANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that people of Porbandar, the birth place of Mahatma Gandhi, are facing many difficulties and have to spend 10 to 11 hours to reach Ahmedabad, the other place having the memories of Gandhiji due to non-availability of double railway track though the distance between two historical places is only 400 kms. approximately;

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal to set-up a double railway tracks between these two historical cities; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?